

The press review

16 September-7 October 2013

Prepared by Transparency International Luxembourg

Disclaimer

Cette revue de presse est compilée par Transparency International Luxembourg. Les idées et opinions exprimées dans les articles cités sont fournis à titre d'information uniquement et ne représentent pas les idées et opinions de Transparency International Luxembourg, qui s'en distance formellement. La véracité et l'exactitude des documents repris ou cités dans cette revue de presse n'a pas été confirmée par Transparency International Luxembourg. Pour toutes questions concernant ce service, nous vous prions de bien vouloir contacter notre bureau au numéro de téléphone 26 38 99 29 ou par e-mail secretariat@transparency.lu.

Information importante « hotline anti corruption »

Nous vous rappelons que nous avons mis en place une « hotline » qui permet d'obtenir aide et assistance gratuite pour les particuliers pour tout fait constitutif de corruption au sens large ou de trafic d'influence (en tant que victime ou de témoin).

Vous pouvez nous joindre à cet effet par téléphone au numéro 26 38 99 29, par email info@transparency.lu ou alors directement en nos bureaux situés au 11C, Bd. Joseph II, Luxembourg.

National news

The logo for 'Tageblatt.lu' features the word 'Tageblatt' in a black serif font, followed by a red dot and the letters 'lu' in a blue sans-serif font.

STEUERVERLUST

19. September 2013 19:26; Akt: 19.09.2013 19:43

Luxemburg entgehen Millionen an TVA

Luxemburg sind nach Brüsseler Einschätzung 2011

Mehrwertsteuereinnahmen von rund 551 Millionen Euro entgangen. Und damit stehen wir im EU-Vergleich aber noch gut da.

Nachbar Deutschland komme auf entgangene Mehrwertsteuereinnahmen von 26,9 Milliarden Euro, was einem Anteil von einem Prozent entspreche. Frankreich kommt auf 32,2 Milliarden Euro, was einem Anteil von 1,6 Prozent entspricht. Belgien kommt auf 4,9 Milliarden, das macht einem Anteil von 1,3 Prozent aus. Bei Italien kommt mit gut 36 Milliarden Euro der höchste Einzelbetrag in der EU zusammen - das entspricht 2,3 Prozent der Wirtschaftsleistung.

Gründe sind unter anderem Betrug, Firmen-Insolvenzen oder legale Steuervermeidung. Mit einem Anteil des Ausfalls von 1,3 der Wirtschaftsleistung liegt Luxemburg aber unter dem EU-Schnitt von 1,5 Prozent, teilte die EU-Kommission in einer am Donnerstag in Brüssel veröffentlichten Studie mit.

Schlusslicht Rumänien

In der gesamten EU betrug der Ausfall bei der Mehrwertsteuer im vorvergangenen Jahr 193 Milliarden Euro. In Rumänien machen die entgangenen Mehrwertsteuereinnahmen fast 8 Prozent der Wirtschaftsleistung aus - kein Land kommt auf einen höheren Wert. Nicht berücksichtigt bei der Untersuchung wurden Zypern und Neu-Mitglied Kroatien.

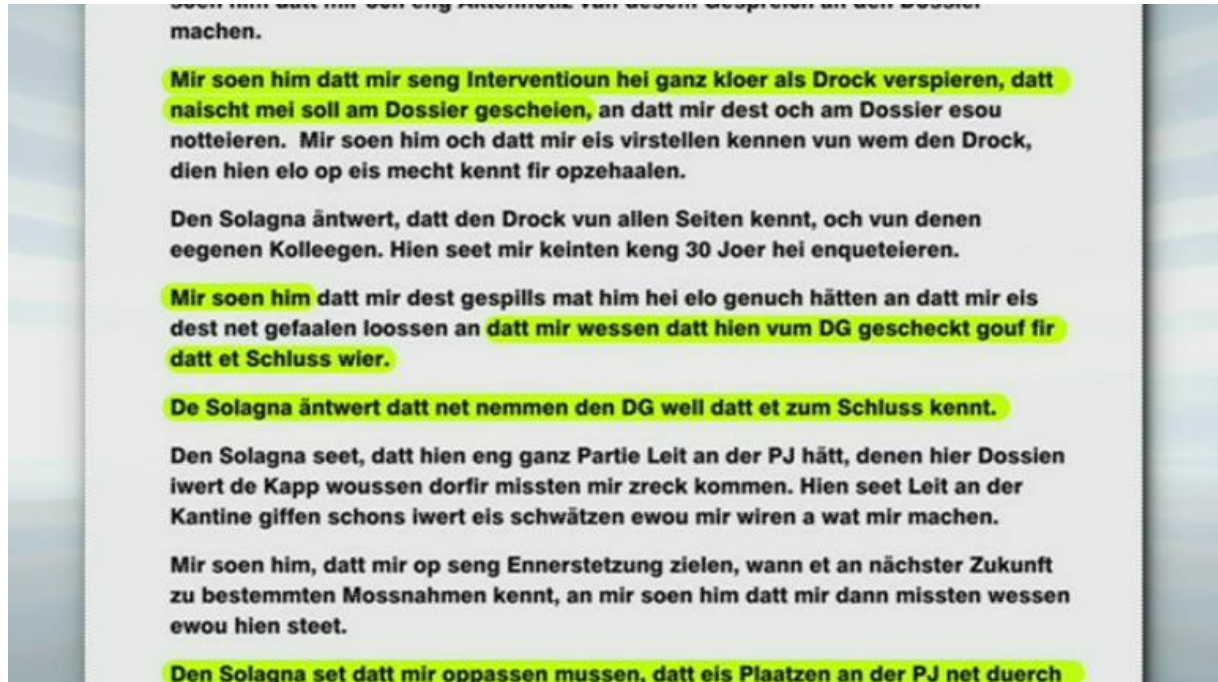
Die Kommission appelliert angesichts der hohen Zahlen an die Mitgliedstaaten, den Kampf gegen den Mehrwertsteuerbetrug zu verschärfen. Ein EU-Experte sagte, der allein durch Betrug verursachte Schaden könne nicht genau beziffert werden.

Die EU gibt einen Rahmen für die Mehrwertsteuer vor - die Höhe der Sätze ist Sache der Mitgliedstaaten. Die Steuerpolitik in der EU gilt als ein Minenfeld, da jeder Staat mit einem Veto Beschlüsse für die Union verhindern kann. (Tageblatt.lu)

Sträitgespréich tëscht BL-Enquêteuren a Patrice Solagna

RTL - 23.09.2013, 11:41 | Fir d'lescht aktualiséiert: 23.09.2013, 13:50

De Chef vun der Police judiciaire, Patrice Solagna, huet Enn Oktober 2006 probéiert d'Bommeleeër-Enquête ofzebriechen.



En huet versicht d'Enquêteuren, déi jo an engem extrae Gebai souzen, erëm zréck op Hamm bei d'PJ ze kréien. Firwat de Patrice Solagna dat gemaach huet, doriwwer gëtt um Méindegnomëtt am Bommeleeër-Prozess geschwat.

Do spillt dann och e Rapport eng grouss Roll, deem d'Enquêteuren deemools iwwer e Sträitgespréich mam Patrice Solagna gemaach haten.

Hei den "originale" Protokoll vun deem Gespréich.

De SOLAGNA freet ewe laang datt dat Dengen nach dauert.

Hien well net mei datt nach eng Keier 6 Meint verlängert get an hien seet hien hätt dest och dem Procureur schons gesoot, et keint net sinn datt et emmer erem zu Verlängerungen kennt irgendwann misst een den Dossier och ofschleissen. Och wann en ofgeschloss ass kennt et bestëmmt emmer erem zu deier enger oder anerer Saach ewou een enqueteieren muss.

De SOLAGNA freet ob mir schons mat der Madame Woltz iwert Hamm geschwaat hätten. Mir soen nee. Hien seet hien wellt, datt mir zreck op Hamm keimen.

Mir froen wou hien den Virdeel gesait, datt mir zreck op Hamm kommen, mir erklären him, dat mir ausgelagert gin sin fir kennen a Rouh Vernehmungen ze machen an mir soen him, datt mir an enger warmer Phase sinn.

Hien well eis erklären datt och zu Hamm permanent Leit ran an raus gin an datt et net opfelt op mir oder een aneren een bestallt huet. Mir erklären him nach eng Keier, datt mir Leit heiren di net zu Hamm an an aus goen wellen.

Hien freet wie mir eis dest firstellen an bemierkt, datt hien sech net virstellen kann, datt mir elo nach Leit heieren. Mir widersprieche him vehement an soen datt mir genau an enger Phase sinn ewou ganz vill Leit geheiert gin.

Hien well dest net glewen a besteet drop, datt mir zreckkommen op Hamm.

Mir soen him datt den Dossier an enger brisanter Phase ass, a Froen op Madame Woltz him gesoot huet datt mir intern enqueteieren an datt, wann mir elo op Hamm zreck gin, kuerz drop jiddereen wees op wien mir an der Verwaltung schaffen. Dat wier eben Situatioun.

De SOLOGNA well nachmols wessen ewei laang dat et dauert, an mir soen him datt mir et net wessen.

SOLAGNA well onbedingt een Datum wessen. Mir kennen him keen gin.

Mir soen him datt hien gefrot gin ass, fir an den Dossier eran ze klammen hien dat awer net wollt, elo geif hien Drock machen dat mir färdeg gin sollen. Mir soen him, dat et vill mei einfach gewiecht wir wann hien am Dossier mat dran wir da keint hien sech elo een Bild machen a Plaatz dat mir elo hei setzen an mir mierken, dat hien probeiert Drock op eis ze maachen fir datt den Dossier net an eng Richtung evolueiert ewou en am gangen ass hinzegoen.

Mir soen him, dat dess Situatioun alles anescht wie angenehm ass a widerhuelen dat hien keng Responsabiliteit am Dossier iwerhuelen well.

Mir haten him am DG ganz daitlech gesoot an wat fir eng Richtung dat et geet an hien weisst jo wann dat Publique giff gin, wat da lass geet. Hien an den DG weissten dat speistestens no den Perqui.

Mir soen him datt mir net wellen den Pingpongsball sinn. Den SOLAGNA wees datt sollen Leit aus der Verwaltung geheiert gin. Mir bemierken, datt et vill mei einfach wir wann Leit sech giffen erenneren an hien äntwert 20 Joer wieren een laangen Daag.

Den SOLAGNA seet hien weilt eis erem zu Hamm integreieren!

Mir soen him, datt mir op Hamm kommen wann hien dest esou unurdnet, an mir soen him datt mir och eng Aktennotiz vun desem Gesprich an den Dossier machen.

Mir soen him datt mir seng Interventioun hei ganz kloer als Drock verspieren, datt naischt mei soll am Dossier gescheien, an datt mir dest och am Dossier esou notteieren. Mir soen him och datt mir eis virstellen kennen vun wem den Drock, dien hien elo op eis mecht kennt fir opzemaal.

Den Solagna äntwert, datt den Drock vun allen Seiten kennt, och vun denen eegenen Kollegen. Hien seet mir keinten keng 30 Joer hei enqueteieren.

Mir soen him datt mir dest gespills mat him hei elo genuch hätten an datt mir eis dest net gefaalen loossen an datt mir wessen datt hien vum DG gescheckt gouf fir datt et Schluss wier.

De Solagna äntwert datt net nemmen den DG well datt et zum Schluss kennt.

Den Solagna seet, datt hien eng ganz Partie Leit an der PJ hätt, denen hier Dossien iwert de Kapp woussen dorfir missten mir zreck kommen. Hien seet Leit an der Kantine giffen schons iwert eis schwätzen ewou mir wiren a wat mir machen.

Mir soen him, datt mir op seng Ennerstetzung zielen, wann et an nächster Zukunft zu bestemten Mossnahmen kennt, an mir soen him datt mir dann missten wessen ewou hien steet.

Den Solagna set datt mir oppassen mussen, datt eis Plätzen an der PJ net duerch aner Leit besaat goufen, wann mir esou laang fort wiren, da misst een kucken ewou mir giffen hinkommen.

Mir gesinn dest kloer als Drohung. Ministère de la Justice

Octavie Modert a participé à une table-ronde sur la protection des donneurs d'alerte de la corruption



(Photo: ministère de la Justice)

La ministre de la Justice, Octavie Modert, a assisté le 26 septembre 2013 à une table-ronde organisée par «Transparency International Luxembourg» portant sur le sujet de la protection des donneurs d'alerte (whistleblowers).

Lors de son intervention, elle a présenté la genèse de la loi du 13 février 2011 renforçant les moyens de lutte contre la corruption et introduisant des dispositions sur la protection des donneurs d'alerte. Cette loi vise en général une adaptation du Code pénal sur la corruption, mais aussi l'introduction dans le Code du travail d'un chapitre nouveau sur la protection des salariés en matière de lutte contre la corruption, le trafic d'influence et la prise illégale d'intérêts.

Octavie Modert s'est félicitée de la collaboration entre l'État luxembourgeois et «Transparency International». Elle a par ailleurs souligné l'engagement du Luxembourg dans la lutte contre la corruption tant au niveau national qu'international et rappelé les efforts constants entrepris par le gouvernement pour lutter contre ce fléau.

Le contenu de ce communiqué de presse est de la seule responsabilité de son auteur:
"Ministère de la Justice"

International/regional news



Credit Suisse va fermer des comptes de clients dans 50 pays

2013-09-24 14:23:00



Photo: archives

Credit Suisse, le numéro deux du secteur bancaire en Suisse, entend fermer les comptes de clients provenant de près de 50 pays d'ici la fin de l'année, a affirmé le Tages-Anzeiger dans son édition de mardi.

La banque entend demander aux clients de ces pays de solder leurs comptes soit parce que leur avoirs sont insuffisants, la limite se situant typiquement en-dessous d'un million de francs suisses (800.000 euros), soit parce que Credit Suisse ne souhaite plus faire affaires dans ces pays, selon le quotidien suisse alémanique.

L'initiative touche notamment des pays africains, tels que le Congo et l'Angola. Sont également visés des pays tels que le Turkménistan, l'Ouzbékistan et la Biélorussie, les risques de réputation liés à ces pays étant jugés trop importants, a pointé le journal.

"Dans d'autres pays, Credit Suisse veut se concentrer sur les riches et super-riches, comme notamment au Danemark et en Israël, où les clients dont la fortune est inférieure à un million doivent fermer leurs comptes", a indiqué le Tages-Anzeiger.

En Israël, le fait que de nombreux citoyens aient une double nationalité israélienne et américaine a également joué un rôle dans la mesure où ceux-ci doivent en conséquence s'acquitter de l'impôt aux États-Unis.

Contactée par l'AFP, la banque a rappelé que ces mesures s'inscrivaient dans la ligne annoncée lors de la publication de ses résultats du deuxième trimestre, fin juillet.

"Une partie de notre stratégie est de nous recentrer sur certains segments et régions et de sortir de pays trop petits", a rappelé une porte-parole de Credit Suisse.

La banque entend se retirer totalement de certains marchés. Ce retrait ne sera que partiel dans d'autres, a-t-elle souligné.

Lors de la publication de ses résultats du deuxième trimestre, la banque avait annoncé que le retrait de certains marchés permettrait d'économiser près de 150 millions de francs suisses d'ici la fin de l'année.

Au cours des dernières années, la pression sur les banques s'est considérablement accrue pour que celles-ci s'assurent que les fonds de leurs clients sont légitimes, ce qui a entraîné une forte augmentation des frais de procédures. *Afp*

<http://www.mirror.co.uk/>

Eurovision bribery scandal: Rules to be changed following corruption claims

24 Sep 2013 08:14

Organisers say changes will improve 'transparency' of annual song contest's voting process



Winner: Emmelie de Forest of Denmark wins the Eurovision Song Contest 2013

Getty

Eurovision organisers have announced several rule changes following allegations of bribery and corruption.

The European Broadcasting Union launched an investigation after reports from Sweden suggested that officials from Azerbaijan had attempted to bribe jurors in several countries.

Unnamed jurors from smaller nations, including Lithuania and Malta, claimed they had been approached to sway the vote in Azerbaijan's favour.

Normally the names of the five panelists in each country are not unveiled until after the final result, and their individual scores for each of the songs have never been revealed.

But under the new rules, the names of the five jurors will be announced in advance of the final, with their full marks released immediately after.

The new rules also forbid the same person serving on a jury for two contests in a row.

Organisers claim that - although they have found no proof of jury tampering - the move is to increase

“Tighter rules and increased openness are important for the Eurovision Song Contest to build on its success,” said executive supervisor Jon Ola Sand.

“We want to make sure participants, viewers and fans know that we have done, and will always do, our utmost to secure a fair result.

“We believe in the independence of every jury member [and] I believe the fact their votes are on display will help them vote independently.”

Swedish newspaper Skånska Dagbladet claimed that jurors in several countries were offered ‘enough money to live off for a year’ in return for voting for Azerbaijan.

Malta has awarded Azerbaijan the maximum twelve points the last three years in a row while Lithuania awarded the country twelve points for the last two years.

Last year, a Lithuanian website reported that representatives from Azerbaijan were offering groups of youngsters phones and cash to vote en masse in the country’s favour.

Azerbaijan won the competition in 2011 and spent almost €140m on building a brand new arena for the show.

New York Times

European Union Starts New Graft Inquiry Into Tobacco Regulator

By JAMES KANTER Published: September 26, 2013

BRUSSELS — European Union investigators said on Thursday that they had started a new investigation into the former senior official responsible for tobacco regulation, the latest turn in a high-profile corruption case.

The case focuses on John Dalli, a politician from Malta, who resigned last October from the European Commission as the official in charge of health and consumer protection after a preliminary inquiry into a Maltese businessman's solicitation of a nearly \$80 million kickback from the tobacco industry. Mr. Dalli has denied wrongdoing.

The affair was the biggest scandal to hit the commission since 1999, when the entire European Commission led by Jacques Santer, a former prime minister of Luxembourg, was forced to resign over allegations of fraud and mismanagement against some of his commissioners.

When allegations against Mr. Dalli last autumn reached José Manuel Barroso, the commission's president, he forced Mr. Dalli to resign. Yet the commission did not find evidence to support action against Mr. Dalli. Maltese authorities started their own investigation, but said in June that they had found no evidence of wrongdoing.

Mr. Dalli has said he knew the businessman accused in the case, Silvio Zammit, from his earlier career in Maltese politics, but has denied that they were close or ever business partners. Mr. Dalli has also sued the commission at the European Court of Justice, the highest court in the Union, for neglecting proper procedure and for violating his rights of defense. That case is continuing.

The new investigation by the European Anti-Fraud Office focuses on two or more trips Mr. Dalli took to the Caribbean last year that were first reported in July by The International Herald Tribune and The New York Times. Mr. Dalli was still in his post as health and consumer protection commissioner when he made those trips.

In a statement Thursday, the antifraud office said it was "currently looking into new elements that have emerged in the context of media reports" in relation to Mr. Dalli. The office added that it did not comment on the nature or purpose of investigations, and it declined to offer more details.

Although the office does not conduct criminal investigations, its findings can result in severe sanctions for E.U. staff, including fines and dismissals. It can also pass its findings on to national authorities that have prosecutorial powers that can lead to criminal sanctions. The media office for the Maltese police declined to comment by telephone on Thursday evening. The office had no immediate response to questions sent by e-mail.

Mr. Dalli, reached by telephone on Thursday, declined to comment on the investigation, saying he had not been informed about it. Mr. Dalli said he did not yet have any update about the progress of his legal action at the European court.

But Barry Connor, who leased a villa he owns in the Bahamas to Mr. Dalli's daughter in the summer of 2012, where Mr. Dalli stayed, said he and his wife were interviewed for two days by officials at the antifraud office in Brussels this month.

“We went through everything that we had,” Mr. Connor said this week in a telephone interview, referring to the information he and his wife shared with investigators about Mr. Dalli and the other guests at the villa. The investigators “now know who was in the house and what was being said and what they were talking about.”

“They are going into a lot of depth,” Mr. Connor said of the investigators.

Mr. Connor recalled in a previous interview that Mr. Dalli said he was planning to transfer large amounts of money for an unspecified venture and that Mr. Dalli had discussed that matter with him.

Mr. Dalli said in a telephone interview in June that he had made the Caribbean trips to help coordinate the transfer of tens of millions of dollars to a charitable project to help people in Africa.

Mr. Dalli said in June that the project was very personal and confidential, and would not discuss its details. But he insisted that it involved nothing unseemly. He said that he personally had no accounts in the Bahamas, that he was not being paid and that the money was not for him, but rather would be put into a trust for the charity.

On Thursday, Mr. Dalli said he was not currently involved in the charitable project.

The E.U. treaty states that commissioners can only hold one job; under a separate code of conduct they may contribute to charitable organizations, but may not manage them.

Mr. Dalli, 64, still could claim a pension from the European Commission amounting to about 20,000 euros, or \$27,000, before tax, each year when he reaches 65.

On Thursday, Mark Gray, a spokesman for the commission, declined to comment on Mr. Dalli’s pension entitlement to protect Mr. Dalli’s rights of privacy and because of the ongoing case at the European court.

The case first came to the authorities’ attention in May 2012 when Swedish Match, a company that makes a form of smokeless tobacco known as snus, reported to the commission that Mr. Zammit had asked the company for as much as €60 million in return for using his contacts with Mr. Dalli.

In its report, Swedish Match included a recording of one of the requests for money made by Mr. Zammit to a lobbyist for the tobacco industry.

The aim, officials suspected, was to influence a legislative proposal on tobacco products — and in particular to seek an end to the ban on snus sales that covers all countries in the bloc except Sweden. Snus are small packets of tobacco held in the mouth.

Mr. Dalli has also said the accusations made against him in Brussels were part of what he described as an elaborate effort to entrap him, led by the smokeless-tobacco industry. He suggested that the aim was to bring down the bloc’s top health official and manipulate legislation.

Mr. Dalli said on Thursday that he also had brought a defamation case in the Belgian court against Swedish Match but gave no further details.

Malta Today, a news daily in Malta, reported on its Web site in December that Mr. Dalli had filed a complaint for defamation against Swedish Match in the Court of First Instance in Belgium for distributing false information about him.

Andrew Higgins contributed reporting.